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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 4178/OL166-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hidetoshi FUKUOKA

Serial No. 09/730,706

Art Unit: 1744

Confirmation No.: 7997

Filed: December 6, 2000

Examiner: Theresa T. SNIDER

For: **ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER**

Pending Claims as of November 1, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

3. (Twice Amended) The electric vacuum cleaner according to claim 6, being adapted so that the exhaust path is directed in said floor suction tool toward said rotation brush in a direction to augment rotation of said rotation brush.

4. (Twice Amended) [An] The electric vacuum cleaner according to claim 6, wherein: said floor suction tool includes a suction tool body, a pivoting pipe movable up and down with respect to said suction tool body, a connection pipe pivotable in a circumferential direction with respect to said pivoting pipe;

said [air circulation] exhaust path passing through said tool body, said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;

said [feeder] electric lines passing along said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;

said [feeder] electric lines have a slack in the vicinity of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe; and

said slack exceeding a pivoting distance of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe.

5. (Twice Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner according to claim 6, [wherein] being adapted so that exhaust air is guided to said rotation brush in a rotation direction of said rotation brush.

6. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:
a vacuum cleaner body containing a motorized fan;
a flexible hose connected to said vacuum cleaner body;
an extension pipe connected to said flexible hose;
a floor suction tool connected to said extension pipe, said floor suction tool containing a rotation brush and a motor for rotating said brush;

an exhaust path disposed in said vacuum cleaner body to guide an exhaust of said motorized fan into said flexible hose;

a path disposed in said flexible hose to communicate with said exhaust path in said vacuum cleaner body;

a path disposed in said extension pipe to communicate with said path in said flexible hose;

a path disposed in said floor suction tool to communicate with said path in said extension pipe;

said paths constituting an air circulation guide path passing from said body along said hose and said pipe to said floor suction tool;

said air circulation guide path including an air filter [whereby] adapted to provide that the air in said guide path is clean air;

electric lines from said body to said motor for supplying electricity for rotating said rotation brush, said electric lines passing [along] through said air circulation guide path whereby said electric lines are protected from contaminants in air moving therepast.

7. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner having a motorized fan with an exhaust outlet and a suction outlet and comprising:

an elongated hose device having an inner hollow hose disposed in spaced apart relationship with an outer hollow hose;

means connected to one end of said hose device for connecting the inner hose to the suction inlet of the fan and connecting the outer hose to the exhaust outlet of the fan;

an elongated extension pipe device having an inner hollow conduit disposed in spaced relationship within an outer hollow conduit, one end of the pipe device being connected to the other end of the hose device with the inner conduit connected to the inner hose and thus connected by the inner hose to the suction inlet of the fan and the outer conduit connected to the outer hose and thus being connected to the exhaust outlet of the fan; [and]

a floor suction tool connected to the other end of the pipe device, said floor suction tool having a suction port connected to the inner hollow conduit of the pipe device and thus being connected to the suction inlet of the fan, said floor suction tool having an exhaust port connected to the outer hollow conduit of the pipe device and thus being connected to the exhaust outlet of the fan[.] and forming an exhaust path;
an air filter in said exhaust path; and
said floor suction tool containing a rotation brush and a motor for rotating said
brush.